



# Draft Minutes, Meeting of December 9–10, 2008

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### DECEMBER 9

#### COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Olivia K. Singh, Chair  
John P. Perez, Vice Chair  
George T. Caplan  
Melinda Guzman  
David P. Lopez  
Hugo Morales  
George W. Nickel  
Ralph R. Pesqueira  
Carolyn Russell  
H. Eric Schockman  
Bruce D. Varner  
Howard Welinsky

#### Call to Order

Commission Chair Singh called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Executive Secretary Anna Gomez called the roll. Chair Singh, Vice Chair Perez, and Commissioners Caplan, Guzman, Lopez, Morales, Pesqueira, Schockman, Varner, and Welinsky were present. Commissioners Russell and Nickel were in attendance by telephone.

#### Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Caplan moved to adopt the minutes. Commissioner Lopez seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Report of the Chair

Chair Singh announced the re-appointment of Alternate Commissioner Pauline Larwood, representing the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. Chair Singh read a resolution for outgoing student representative Joseph Bishop.

Vice Chair Perez presented Chair Singh with a plaque commemorating her two-year term as chair, which ended in 2008, and noted the Commission's appreciation. Chair Singh said that serving on the Commission has been one of her most memorable experiences of public service.

#### Report of the Nominating Committee

Committee Chair Morales presented nominations for the Commission's standing committees made at the November 17, 2008 meeting of the Nominating Committee:

- Nominating Committee chair — Commissioner Caplan
- Nominating Committee members — Commissioners Geraty, Lopez, and Nickel
- Education Code Section 66905 Committee chair and sole member — Commissioner Pesqueira
- Governmental Relations Committee chair — Commissioner Welinsky
- Governmental Relations Committee members — Commissioners Geraty, Lopez, Nickel, Schockman, and Singh

Commissioner Schockman moved to approve the nominations. Commissioner Guzman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Morales moved to approve the minutes of the Nominating Committee meeting. Commissioner Welinsky seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## Report of the Executive Director

Executive Director Haberman thanked Chair Singh for her work as the Commission chair over the past few years, and her commitment to public service. Director Haberman acknowledged incoming Alternate Commissioner Pauline Larwood for her continued work with the Commission.

Director Haberman reported that staff have sent letters to new and returning legislators who are interested in education to introduce the Commission priorities and provide information about higher education in California. Staff are scheduling meetings with legislators to start in January.

Director Haberman introduced intern Hanouvi Agbassekou who is working on research projects and student assistant Kaytie Speziale who is working in the ITQ unit.

Director Haberman announced that staff are redesigning and creating items for the public, including a four-page document listing reports from 2006 to the present, and developing a profile on the social networking site, Facebook. He reported that Commissioner Geraty had written an opinion piece published in the Riverside Press-Enterprise supporting UC Riverside's medical school. He also said that check presentation ceremonies for ITQ grant recipients resulted in media coverage for the Commission in several metro and local news outlets. He reported Adrian Griffin, Assistant Director, will join other education leaders and researchers at a Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education conference in Boulder, Colorado on workforce data systems.

Director Haberman recognized staff members Kevin Woolfork and Kimberly Crittenden for organizing the state employees' food drive from November to January, and recognized staff member Joyce Crawford for her work organizing the state charitable campaign in October.

### Item 3 – University Eligibility Study for the Class of 2007

Adrian Griffin, Assistant Director, discussed findings of the study. The UC eligibility rate has fallen since the Commission's last study in 2003, but the CSU eligibility rate has increased sharply. The gap in university eligibility between racial/ethnic groups has narrowed slightly, but eligibility rates for Black and Latino graduates are still well below the rates for Asians and Whites. The study also showed that the number of students eligible for CSU has grown sharply since 2003.

Commissioners asked if the data collected for the study could be used to analyze differences between sub-communities within racial/ethnic groups and students in different income groups. Dr. Griffin said he will be able to present more information on these topics and study the "near misses," or the factors that cut out the students who met most other requirements. In 2006, the California High School Exit Exam became a graduation requirement and restricted the number of students graduating. Dr. Griffin said he would report on how this requirement affects eligibility at future Commission meetings.

Commissioner Welinsky moved to adopt the report. Commissioner Pesqueira seconded. The report was adopted unanimously.

### Presentation by UC President Mark G. Yudof

Mark Yudof, President of the University of California, addressed the Commission. President Yudof said that cuts in state funding for higher education have forced UC to make "silent cuts" such as hiring more lecturers and keeping faculty off the tenure track, increasing class sizes, offering fewer introductory classes, and refining financial aid policies.

President Yudof said that the state's underinvestment in higher education has led to living off the infrastructure that was built a generation ago. It is important to lay groundwork for economic recovery, rebuild the state's infrastructure and to build higher education facilities. UC's accountability data should be available to the public. He plans to reduce enrollments, and encourage community college transfer.

He said that options for CPEC and UC to work together are reexamining the Master Plan, collaborating on data collection, and publicizing UC's budget reductions.

Commissioners asked about transfer from community college into UC, the underrepresentation of Latino and African American students at UC, working with the K-12 system to attract students to college, collaborating with CSU and the community colleges to make the transfer process easier to understand, and using admissions criteria to expand racial diversity and widening opportunities. They also talked about prioritizing which campuses should have certain academic departments and how to make cuts without hurting students.

Commissioner Guzman asked Mr. Yudof about opening a medical school at UC Merced. President Yudof said he does not think this newest UC campus is ready, based on its infrastructure, enrollment, and faculty. He mentioned the possibility of intermediate- and long-range planning where a medical school could gradually build from related departments such as public health.

Commissioner Caplan said that when the Commission says UC is not participating in data collection projects, it is because UC does its own, similar, data collection, as does the community college system. He said that colleges must improve collaboration to promote transfer from community college to UC, assess incoming students' basic skills, and increase compatibility between the three systems.

Chair Singh recessed at 11:33 a.m. to allow for press questions on the University Eligibility Study. She reconvened the meeting at 11:54 a.m.

#### **Item 4 – Legislative Update**

Legislative Director Julia Blair noted that at the September 2008 meeting, the Commission was tracking 18 bills that reflected Commission priorities. Of these bills, 13 passed and were sent to the Governor, of which eight were signed and five vetoed.

Commissioner Welinsky asked which of the vetoed bills might be priorities for the Commission in the upcoming session. Ms. Blair said these would include SB 325 (Scott, higher education accountability) and AB 1821 (Brownley, higher education reporting requirements).

Commissioners also requested staff to create a report on the costs in staff time tracking legislation and data collection and reporting.

The Commission took no action on this item.

#### **Report of the Statutory Advisory Committee**

Committee chair Todd Greenspan reported on recent activities and news from each system. Most notably UC and CSU are facing record-high applications while cutting enrollments.

#### **Lunch**

Chair Singh recessed the meeting for lunch at 12:20 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

## Presentation by the Public Policy Institute of California

PPIC researcher Jennifer Paluch presented results of their second survey of opinions about higher education. The survey showed that the most important issues are affordability and having an economically and racially diverse student body. Most people who said affordability is a problem say that qualified students don't have the opportunity to attend.

Discussion revolved around the similarity in results of the 2007 and 2008 surveys, the public's trust in government, the state budget, financial aid, affordability, education quality, and the opinions of parents of lower socioeconomic backgrounds. Director Haberman discussed parents' high expectations to enroll their children in college amidst declining high school graduation rates, lack of preparation for college work, and the lack of capacity.

## Item 5 - Access and Equity for All Students and Panel Discussion on LGBT Student Needs

Staff members Karen Humphrey and August Cubillo reported on the committee's work on collecting data on the experiences of students who identify themselves as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender (LGBT), and what can be done to improve access, inclusiveness, and success in education.

They introduced an expert panel to speak on the issues, including: Los Rios Community College District student Lance Chih, Pacific McGeorge School of Law student Steve Hansen, San José State sociology professor Wiggsy Siverstein, and UC San Francisco LGBT resources director Shane Snowdon.

Some of the recommendations made by the panel were as follows:

- Find faculty and staff to publicly offer to mentor and support LGBT students.
- Provide unisex restrooms for students and employees in gender transition.
- Train medical and mental health providers to be sensitive to and knowledgeable about LGBT clients.
- Provide career advising to LGBT students in education, medical, public safety, and other fields where public perception is negative on whether they should be allowed to enter those careers.
- Establish uniform complaint procedures in each public system and the independent colleges.
- Gather information about students' gender identity and sexual orientation by adding questions on university surveys and applications.

Commissioners discussed how best to send a message to system and campus administrators regarding the importance of student safety, security, and lawful, non-discriminatory treatment of LGBT students and staff; they also discussed professional development programs on inclusiveness, diversity, and sexual harassment.

## Item 6 – State Budget Update

Staff member Kevin Woolfork presented an update on the state budget. He also discussed the way that the higher education systems are responding to reductions in funding. UC and CSU have started reducing enrollments for 2009–2010, and are considering fee increases, cuts in course offerings, and faculty and staff layoffs.

The Commission took no action on this item.

## **Item 7 – Fiscal Profiles**

Staff members Kevin Woolfork and Ryan Fuller presented highlights of the report.

Bill Pickens, Director of the Executive Leadership and Management program at Stanford University, addressed the Commission and noted that Fiscal Profiles was a very useful document for academic and public policy researchers and journalists.

The Commission took no action on this item.

## **Other Business**

Chair Singh presented Executive Director Haberman with a resolution and gift to acknowledge his retirement from state service. Director Haberman's service to the people of the State of California spans over three decades with public policy work with the Legislature, Governor's Office, higher education systems, and other government offices. He had served as the Commission's Executive Director since September 2004.

## **Item 8 – Going Green: Developing the Green Collar Workforce**

Staff member Mallory Angeli presented information on how the Legislature, campuses, and educational and professional organizations are instituting environmentally friendly, sustainable practices. She reported on a conference on green policy that she and staff member Karen Humphrey attended in October. Information Technology staff are updating the School To Employment Pathways System (STEPS) and Workforce Snapshots data reports to include information on green occupations.

The Commission took no action on this item.

## **Executive Session**

Chair Singh convened a closed Executive Session at 4:41 p.m. She recessed the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

**DECEMBER 10**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Olivia K. Singh, Chair  
George T. Caplan  
David P. Lopez  
George W. Nickel  
Ralph R. Pesqueira  
Carolyn Russell  
Howard Welinsky

**Call to Order**

Chair Singh reconvened the Commission meeting at 8:42 a.m. on December 10, 2008. Executive Secretary Anna Gomez called the roll. Chair Singh, Vice Chair Perez, and Commissioners Caplan, Lopez, Pesqueira, and Welinsky were present. Commissioners Russell and Nickel were in attendance by telephone.

Director Haberman thanked staff and Commissioners for his retirement party on the evening of December 9.

Chair Singh requested staff member Karen Humphrey to draft a statement based on the LGBT panel discussion. This statement will be posted on the Commission's website, and staff will provide ongoing updates about the committee's work.

**Item 9 – Proposed Revisions to the Commission’s Guidelines for Community College Educational Centers**

Staff member Stacy Wilson noted that some Commission guidelines governing the approval of community college educational centers are not consistent with those adopted recently by the Board of Governors. Dr. Wilson recommended that the Commission align its review criteria with those of the Board of Governors. This would mean, for example, that a center would be required to serve 500 full-time-equivalent students (FTES) annually, instead of being required to serve a minimum of 500 FTES during the first fall term of operation.

Dr. Wilson also noted that the Commission does not have guidelines that address the Board of Governors' new "provisional approval" category. Dr. Wilson cautioned that establishing such a category might raise concerns among state planners because it is possible that a provisionally approved center might never achieve the required FTES threshold. Further, unforeseen circumstances might arise in the future, making the proposed center a less viable option for expanding student access.

California Community Colleges facilities specialist Walt Reno said the new status is applied as a formal response to a district's preliminary notice for future planning. These plans are not eligible for funding until reaching the attendance threshold. Commissioner Russell said the conditional approval status was adopted as law in 2006 (SB 361 – Scott, Community College Funding System), and is akin to a Commission policy adopted in 2002 requiring community colleges to submit preliminary planning notices five years in advance. She said the Board of Governors would provide a list of centers that have expanded into full colleges, ceased operation, or remained as centers since the 1980s.

The agenda item will be submitted for action at the Commission's March 2009 meeting.

## **Item 10 – Review of a Proposal for an Educational Center in Davis**

Dr. Wilson presented an analysis of the Los Rios Community College District's proposal to establish a state-approved center in Davis. He said that the district provided additional information requested by staff that clarified a number of issues. Based on the district's response, he recommended that the Commission approve the proposal. Combined operations in the City of Davis are currently serving more than 1,000 FTE students, which is more than twice the number required for center status.

Commissioner Caplan discussed course offerings with the center's dean, Don Palma, who was present at the meeting. Remedial offerings for UC Davis students include basic skills courses in English, math, and science. Career technical education courses and certificate offerings would be available if they match up with UC Davis programs and not necessarily based on courses offered Sacramento City College.

Woodland Community College President Angie Fairchilds discussed the college's support of the proposal and said the Yuba district will continue to work collaboratively with the Los Rios district in determining course offerings at the Davis Center that will not adversely impact enrollments at Woodland.

Vice Chair Perez moved to approve the district's proposal. Commissioner Welinsky seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Item 11 – Review of a Proposal for an Educational Center in Elk Grove**

Staff member Jessika N. Jones presented an analysis of the Los Rios District's proposal for a center in Elk Grove.

Dr. Wilson noted that this center is only 5 miles away from Cosumnes River College. However, a bond measure has been passed which will pay for all initial costs. Commissioner Welinsky asked about the distance and driving time between the new center and Cosumnes River College. Commissioners also discussed concurrent enrollment for high school students, remedial education, and encouraging the systems to build off-campus centers and satellites since the state's budget situation makes it unlikely that new campuses will be built in the near future.

The Commission did not take action on this item.

## **Item 12 – 2008 Improving Teacher Quality**

Improving Teacher Quality grant administrator Karen Humphrey discussed current projects. Ms. Humphrey and Director Haberman made two check presentations to new grantees at their schools, resulting in positive media coverage for the Commission. Citing restricted budgets, ITQ staff were only be able to travel to sites that received grants and that were near to Sacramento. Commissioners encouraged staff to include them at future check presentations.

## **Item 13 – Prospectus for a Study of the Match between Degrees Awarded and California Labor Market Demand**

Staff member Mallory Angeli presented an initial examination of the extent to which people with university degrees are working in fields that do not require such a degree. Staff found that 17% of California workers with a university degree have jobs where employers report that such a degree is not necessary. Ms. Angeli said that future work in this area could include studying trends in under-

employment of graduates, comparing employment and migration trends, and wage differences by race and gender, using Census data and Bureau of Labor Statistics and Employment Development Department employment projections.

Commissioners proposed conducting surveys of employers and university graduates, disaggregating the data by region, and incorporating data used by EDD and other researchers.

The Commission took no action on this item.

## **Other Business**

Chair Singh presented Director Haberman with a framed resolution acknowledging his years of service that was signed by all Commissioners who were present at the meeting.

Commissioner Welinsky announced that he read through public documents and identified less than a half-dozen of the state's 40 new legislators who said they were interested in higher education policy, including past members of the Higher Education Committee. Commissioner Welinsky encouraged Commissioners to call legislators they know to discuss the importance of higher education in California.

## **Adjournment**

Chair Singh adjourned the meeting at 11:19 a.m.